THE

Theatrical Observer:

AND

Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate nor set down aught in malice."

No. 343. Friday, Dec. 20, 1822. Price 1d.

DRURY-LANE.

LALT night a *New Opera* was presented under the title of '*A Tale of other Times; or Which is the Bride?*' and proved highly successful. *To-day* we have only space to give the principal characters, and the *Plot.*—It is said to be an alteration of a French piece, and executed by Mr. DIMOND. It requires curtailment.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

Sigismund.....	*Mr. Braham,*	Zumirski.....	*Mr. Cooper,*
Carolstein.....	*Mr. Terry,*	Jemmicrow.....	*Mr. J. Barnes,*
Herman.....	*Madame Vestris,*	Willibald	*Mr. Fitzwilliam,*
Phedora.....	*Mrs. Austin,*	Oswena	*Mrs. W. West,*
Beatrix.....	*Mrs. Harlowe,*	Jutta.....	*Miss Povey.*

SIGISMUND, sovereign Prince of Lithuania, having heard the beauty and accomplishments of *Phedora*, Princess of Sweden, greatly praised, sent *Zumirski*, a Nobleman under whose guardianship he had been reared, to solicit her in marriage. Zumirski succeeds in his embassy; and at the opening of the Piece, the Swedish Princess with her train, headed by *Carolstein*, is approaching the capital of Lithuania, and Zumirski is appointed to meet her on her journey, and conduct her to his Prince. This Zumirski, however, has other views and intentions. He has a daughter, *Oswena*, whom he has brought up in seclusion, but has secretly wished to marry to his Sovereign. The determination of Sigismund with respect to Phedora, threatens this scheme with utter ruin; and so in order to gratify his ambitious aim, he determines to seize the Princess—destroy her attendants—and substitute his daughter in her place. To execute this bold design, he engages a body of Tartars to meet him at an old ruinous temple, close to an intricate forest through which the Princess has to pass. It happens, however, that *Herman*, a Peasant boy, with his sister *Jutta*, going to visit their Uncle *Jemmicrow*, an old retired Soldier, take shelter in the ruins; but alarmed at the approach of footsteps, they hide themselves in a recess of the building. Zumirski appears with his Tartars, and is met by his daughter Oswena, to whom he communicates his plan to raise her to the throne of Lithuania. Her ambition overcomes all scruples; and she agrees to all that her father directs. The Princess with her train is now at hand—the Tartars headed by Zumirski attack the party—seize the Lady, and kill every one of her attendants except *Carolstein*, whose fate is uncertain. The Princess is brought

to the ruin and immured in a dungeon where she is left to perish—a Picture of Sigismund richly adorned with diamonds, being first taken from her, and put round Oswena's neck. Zumirski returns, as he thinks, triumphant to his Palace: but the Peasant boy and girl who had heard all that passed, liberate Phedora, and conduct her disguised in a dress of Jutta's to Jemmicrow's house, where she is received in the character of an orphan girl. Zumirski in the meantime has apprised the Prince that the Princess of Sweden is at his residence; and induces him to visit the sham Phedora there. Jemmicrow's house is not far from Zumirski's, and the Prince on his return, hearing the sound of music in the premises of the old Soldier, who was well known to him as having saved the life of his fasher the late Sovereign, enters, and there beholds and admires Phedora, who is checked by the sudden appearance of Zumirski from declaring who she is. Zumirski, notwithstanding the humble dress of the Princess, discovers her; and by private threats deters her from avowing herself to Sigismund, who departs deeply impressed with the beauty of the seeming Peasant Girl, and but little satisfied with the supposed Phedora. Zumirski now lays a fresh plot to get possession of the Princess; and dispatches two ruffians to decoy her by night from Jemmicrow's protection—and they are about to succeed, when Carolstein the Swedish Seneschal who had been thought dead, appears on the spot seeking refuge—he discovers the intentions of the villains, and stabs one, whilst the other flies at the approach of the family, and the Princess is again saved from Zumirski's black design. *Harman* had previously been sent to Court with a communication from Phedora in her Peasant character, to the Prince, soliciting his protection, and declaring that treason was plotting against him by his adviser Zumirski. The Prince cannot credit the charge; and is about to unite himself, by virtue of his promise, to the imagined Princess of Sweden, when Carolstein rushes in and forbids the union. The Prince is astonished; and the sham Phedora and her father greatly agitated: but they are still about to triumph, when Carolstein, perceiving the jewelled Picture belonging to his Princees worn by Oswena, calls on her to prove her claim by shewing her knowledge of a secret spring in the picture—Oswena in vain tries to find it—Carolstein now introduces Phedora veiled—the Picture is handed to her at his request—she touches it, and instantly it opens and discovers her own likeness—she raises her veil—and Sigismund sees in the admired and supposed Peasant Girl, the Princess who was destined to share his throne.

COVENT GARDEN.

THE Comedy of *The Wonder* was acted last night with great spirit. Mr. C. KEMBLE as *Don Felix*, and Miss CHESTER as *Violante*, obtained much applause.

It is with pain we state, that Miss BEAUMONT fainted on the stage during the performance of *Brother and Sister*.

Printed by E. THOMAS, Denmark Court, Exeter 'Change, Strand.

Theatre Royal, Covent Garden,

This Evening will be performed, (9th time) a new Opera, in three acts, called

Maid Marian.

The Music by Mr. Bishop.

Richard the 1st, King of England, Mr. T. P. COOKE,
Prince John, Mr. EGERTON,
Robert Fitzooth, Earl of Locksley, Mr. ABBOTT,
Baron Fitzwater, Mr. W. FARREN,
Sir Ralph Montfaucon, Mr. BAKER,
Lord Lacy, Mr HORREBOW, Little John, Mr HUNT
Abbott of Rubygill, Mr. ATKINS,
Friar Michael, Mr. C. KEMBLE,
Friar Peter, Mr KEELEY, Will Whitethorn, MrLey
Sir William of the Lee, Mr. CHAPMAN,
Sir Guy of Gamwell, Mr. BARNES,
Much, the Miller, Mr. PYNE, Herald, Mr. RYALS,
William Gamwell, Mr PEARMAN,
Allan O'Dale, Mr. J. ISAACS, Page Master Longhurst
Officers, Mseers. MEARS and KING,
Attendant on Prince John, Mr. LOUIS,
Sheriff of Nottingham, Mr. NORRIS,
Lady Matilda Fitzwater, Miss M. TREE,
Alice Gamwell, Miss BEAUMONT,
Village Lass, Miss DUNN.

The New Scenery, by *Grieve* and Son, expressly painted for this Piece. Interior of Rubygill Abbey—Exterior of ditto—Hall in Arlingford Castle—Sherwood Forest by Moonlight—Gamwell Green—Prince John's Tent,—anp the Burning of Arlingford Castle—Hall in Nottingham Castle—Tree in Shacwood Forest—Romantic View in the Vicinity—Robin Hood's Bower.

After which 21th. time, a New Piece, in one act, called

The Irish Tutor,

The Characters by, *Mess. Connor, Comer, Chapman, Hunt, Miss Love,* and *Miss J. Scott.*

To conclude with, the Farce of

The Sleep Walker.

Sir Patrick M'Guire, Mr. CONNOR, Rattlepate, Mr. JEFFERIES,
Alibi, Mr. BARNES, Somno, (the Sleep Walker,) Mr. YATES,
Mrs. Decorum, Mrs. DAVENPORT, Sophia, Mrs. STERLING.

To-morrow, Maid Marian, with the London Hermit

XUM

New Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

This Evening will be performed the Comedy of

Venice Preserved.

Duke of Venice, Mr. THOMPSON,
Jaffier, Mr. KEAN,
Priuli, Mr. POWELL, Bedamar, Mr. MERCER,
Pierre, Mr. YOUNG,
Renault, Mr. MEREDITH. Elliott, Mr KING,
Theodore, Mr. COVENEY,
Durand, Mr. Randall, Mezzana, Mr. E. Crooke,
Spinosa, Mr BARNARD,
Captain of the Guard, Mr. Douglas, Officer, Mr. Read
Belvidera, Mrs. W. WEST.

To which will be added, a new Divertisement, called The

Halt of the Caravan.

Including the National Dances of
THE PAS RUSSE—THE SPANISH BOLERO,
A Hornpipe A L'Anglaise—and a Grand Asiatic Pas De Deux.
The Characters by Mr. and Mrs. OSCAR BYRNE,
Mr. and Mrs. NOBLE, and Miss TREE.
Travellers, &c. Messrs. Willmott, Hope, Gouiret, Mathews, Turnour.
Messdms. Smith, E. Smith, Valancy, Gibbon, E. Gibbon, &c.

To conclude with, the Farce, called

LOCK and KEY.

Brummagem, Mr. MUNDEN,
Cheerly, Mr. HORN, Ralph, Mr. HARLEY,
Captain Vain, Mr. PENLEY,
Laura, Miss CUBITT, Fanny, Mrs. H HUGHES,
Selina, Mrs. COVENEY.

To-morrow, an Opera, with The Liar.